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PP RUEHFK
DE RUEHKO #6800 3350414
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
P 010414Z DEC 06
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8793
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
RUCPDOG/USDOC WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUYNAAAC/COMNAVFORJAPAN YOKOSUKA JA PRIORITY
RHHMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY
RHHMHBA/COMPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI//N541// PRIORITY
RHMFIUU/HQ PACAF HICKAM AFB HI//CC/PA// PRIORITY
RUHBANB/OKINAWA FLD OFC US FORCES JAPAN CP BUTLER JA PRIORITY
RHMFIUU/COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA AB JA PRIORITY
INFO RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA 9045
RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE 2473
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 5072
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 1401
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 1168
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 2657
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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION - BUSH-MALIKI MEETING - TOKYO

LEAD STORIES: Friday morning's Yomiuri and Tokyo Shimbun front-paged President Bush's meeting with Iraqi Prime Minister al-Maliki Thursday in Amman, Jordan.

11. "Bush-Maliki Meeting: US Looking for Way to Withdraw Troops from Iraq" Amman correspondent Sadahiro of the top-circulation, moderate Yomiuri commented (12/1): "President Bush's meeting Thursday with Iraqi Prime Minister Maliki indicates that the Bush administration, which has previously insisted on 'complete victory' in Iraq, is now looking for a way to withdraw its troops even if its goals are only halfway met. The Bush administration's hopes for democratizing Iraq are rapidly fading, with attention now focused on the extent to which it will be able to improve the situation on the ground during its remaining two years in office.... The Iraq Study Group, a bipartisan commission led by former Secretary of State James Baker, will announce its

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recommendations next Wednesday, probably proposing a reduction in US troops in Iraq and the start of talks with neighboring countries, including Iran and Syria. With President Bush having just two years left in office, what kind of approach can the US come up with? Its review of its Iraq policy is approaching the final stage."

SCHIEFFER